

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 2, 2016**

ATTENDANCE: Milta Feliciano, Co-Chair; M. Evette Brantley, Co-Chair;
Jeanette Herron; Aidee Nieves; Richard Salter; Eneida Martinez;
Michelle Lyons

STAFF: Autumn Hurst, Central Grants; Isolina DeJesus, Central Grants;
Kingsley Osei; Steve Walker

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Feliciano called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. A quorum was present.

81-15 GRANT SUBMISSION

**RE: UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE FUND FOR PROGRESS ON RACE IN AMERICA
FOR THE SHINE A LIGHT PROJECT. (PROJECT #17316)**

Ms. Hurst came forward to present on the item. She stated that the grant submission had been discussed the prior meeting, and that it plans to build upon current initiatives to address racial tensions, inequities, and disparity in opportunities for Bridgeport youth. She stated that this program will have numerous facets, among them a workshop to train young social justice advocates, field trips to sites of historical significance in racial justice movements, a two and a half day training on ending racism led by a nationally renowned organization and town hall meetings hosted at schools to discuss race and racial discrimination with the end goal of drafting a set of recommendations to bring to the Mayor's office. Ms. Hurst stated, since the last presentation, they have secured a bilingual aid worker, Janet Ortiz, to be added to the grant, per the committee's request.

Council Member Feliciano asked for clarification regarding the division of funds for the field trips, stating that she wants to ensure no children are paying out of pocket. Mr. Hurst stated that the item marked 'bus rental' accounts for transportation of both trips, while the amount under the item marked 'NYC City Tour' is specifically to hire a guide to conduct the tour. A hired guide is not necessary for the CT Freedom Trail Trip, as Mr. Osei and other staff will act as guides.

Council Member Brantley stated that this is a great initiative, and that she believes it will aid the children of Bridgeport in navigating with the academic environment in a more appropriate way,

while avoiding conflicts that could end in suspension, particularly for Latino and African American students.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 81-15 GRANT SUBMISSION RE: UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE FUND FOR PROGRESS ON RACE IN AMERICA FOR THE SHINE A LIGHT PROJECT. (PROJECT #17316.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Council Member Brantley asked if Ms. Ortiz was invited to the meeting. Mr. Osei stated that she was, but had work she needed to complete for a program they are running tomorrow.

Mr. Walker stated that his wife will also be assisting with the program. Mrs. Walker has a degree in Human Services, is bilingual, and intends to recruit other bilingual students to aid with the program.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NIEVES SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Ramos
Telesco Secretarial Services